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Congressional leaders come out with 6 spending bills in a drive to avoid a partial shutdown

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders on Sunday came out with a package of six bills setting full-year spending levels for some federal agencies, a step forward in a long overdue funding process beset by sharp political divisions between the two parties as well as infighting among House Republicans. The release of the text of legislation over the weekend was designed to meet the House's rule to give lawmakers at least 72 hours to study a bill before voting. And it's a promising sign that lawmakers will avoid a partial shutdown that would kick in at 12:01 a.m. Saturday for those agencies covered under the bill, such as Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Transportation, Justice and others. Congressional leaders

hope to complete votes on the package this week and continue negotiations on the remaining six annual spending bills to pass them before a March 22 deadline. The price tag for the package out Sunday comes to about \$460 billion, representing less than 30% of the discretionary spending Congress looks to approve for this year. The package still being negotiated includes defense spending. House Speaker Mike Johnson highlighted some key policy and spending wins for conservatives, even as many of his GOP colleagues consider the changes inadequate. Some House Republicans had hoped the prospect of a shutdown could leverage more concessions from Democrats. Overall, this year's spending bills would keep non-defense spending relative-



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks at the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 29, 2024. Shortages of ammunition and supplies are resulting in Ukraine losing ground, congressional leaders warn, yet the Republican-controlled House has shown little hurry to resupply Kyiv with military aid.

Associated Press

ly flat with last year's bill, and some \$70 billion less than what President Joe Biden originally sought. **Continued on next page**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	SATURDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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Continued from Front

"House Republicans secured key conservative policy victories, rejected left-wing proposals, and imposed sharp cuts to agencies and programs critical to President Biden's agenda," Johnson said in a prepared statement.

Earlier this year, Johnson and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced an agreement on the top-line spending levels for this year's discretionary spending, which comes to more than \$1.6 trillion. But that agreement didn't address potential policy mandates placed within the bills. That's where negotiations have focused in recent weeks.

Democrats staved off most of the policy riders that House Republicans sought to include. For example, they beat back an effort to reverse the FDA's deci-



The Dome of the U.S. Capitol Building is visible from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, March 1, 2024.

policy wins, however. One provision, for example, will prevent the sale of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China.

Another provision strengthens gun rights for certain veterans. Under current law, the VA must send a beneficiary's name to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System whenever a fiduciary is appointed to help manage someone's benefits. This year's spending package prohibits the VA from transmitting that information unless a relevant judicial authority rules that the beneficiary is a danger to himself or herself, or others. Still, some of the more conservative members of the House GOP have been critical of the spending bills, and many voted against the short-term extension Congress passed last week that avoided a shutdown and allowed negotiations to continue.

Associated Press

sion that allows the abortion pill mifepristone to be sold in retail pharmacies, instead of only in hospitals, clinics and medical offices. Democrats also said the bill would fully fund a nutrition program for low-income women, infants and children known as WIC, providing about \$7 billion for the program, a \$1 billion increase from the previous year.

"Throughout the negotiations, Democrats fought hard to protect against cuts to housing and nutrition programs, and keep out harmful provisions that would further restrict access to women's health, or roll back the progress we've made to fight climate change," Schumer, D-N.Y., said in support of the legislation.

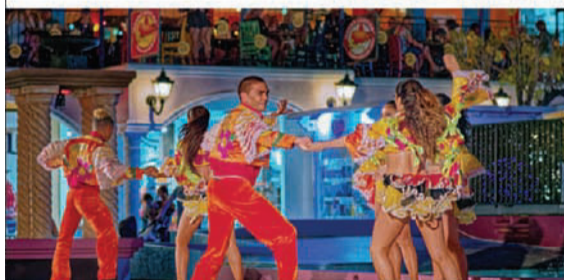
House Republicans were able to achieve some

"We all promised we wouldn't do this crap when we got up here," Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Mo., said as the short-term extension was debated. "The American people have demanded responsible spending and border security for years, but we fail them. When will we heed the calls of our constituents to rein in the wasteful spending, secure the borders, and defeat the bureaucracy targeting them?"

The short-term extension last week was the fourth in recent months. The vote to approve it was 320-99, but House Republicans were divided, with 113 in support and 97 against. The Senate approved the extension, 77-13. The votes being teed up on spending bills come five months after the budget year began. □



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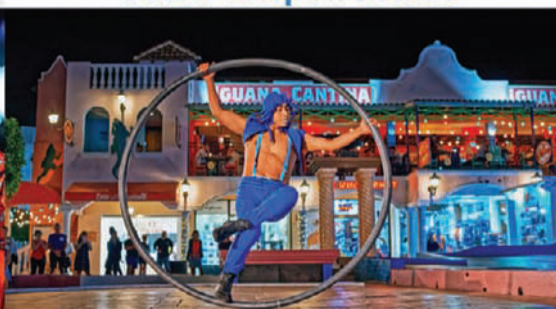
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Attorney General Garland tells Alabama's Bloody Sunday service that voting rights are under attack

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — Attorney General Merrick Garland told parishioners at a Selma church service commemorating the 59th anniversary of the attack by Alabama law officers on Civil Rights demonstrators that voting rights are endangered in much of the nation. Garland told a Bloody Sunday service that decisions by the Supreme Court and lower courts since 2006 have weakened the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was passed in the wake of the police attack. The demonstrators were beaten by officers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, as they tried to march across Alabama in support of voting rights. Vice President Kamala Harris will lead the annual march across the bridge on Sunday afternoon. The march and Garland's speech are among dozens of events during the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, which began Thursday and culminates Sunday. Garland said the rulings



The Rev. Al Sharpton, Vice President Kamala Harris and Attorney Ben Crump walk and sing across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with others commemorating the 59th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday voting rights march in 1965, Sunday, March 3, 2024, in Selma, Ala.

Associated Press

have endangered the voting rights of Black Americans. "Since those (court) decisions, there has been a dramatic increase in legislative measures that make it harder for millions of eligible voters to vote and to elect representatives of

their choice," Garland told worshippers at Selma's Tabernacle Baptist Church, the site of one of the first mass meetings of the voting rights movement. "Those measures include practices and procedures that make voting more difficult; redistricting maps

that disadvantage minorities; and changes in voting administration that diminish the authority of locally elected or nonpartisan election administrators," he said. "Such measures threaten the foundation of our system of government." Harris will speak at a rally at

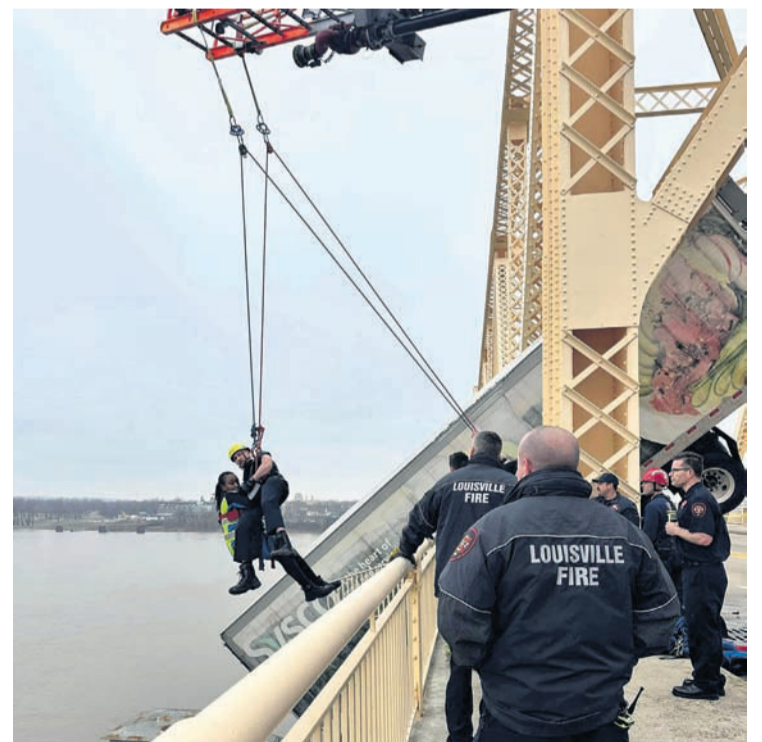
the bridge after the march about "the legacy of the civil rights movement, address the ongoing work to achieve justice for all, and encourage Americans to continue the fight for fundamental freedoms that are under attack throughout the country." Khadidah Stone, 27, part of a crowd gathered at the bridge Sunday in light rain before the march, sees the work of today's activists as an extension of those who were attacked in Selma in 1965. Stone works for the voter engagement group Alabama Forward, and was a plaintiff in the Voting Rights case against the state that led to creating a second Alabama congressional district with a substantial number of Black voters. Voters will cast their first ballots in that district on Tuesday. "We have to continue to fight, because they (voting rights) are under attack," Stone said. The Selma commemoration is a frequent stop for Democratic politicians paying homage to the voting rights movement. □

The semi driver rescued dangling from a bridge had been struck by an oncoming vehicle: mayor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A tractor-trailer that was knocked dangling off a bridge over the Ohio River — prompting a dramatic rescue of the driver — was struck by a vehicle that had crossed into opposing traffic, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said Saturday. Breathtaking photos and video captured the rescue Friday of the driver in her cab over the side of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Bridge connecting Louisville, Kentucky, to southern Indiana. The truck driver was rescued unharmed, but three other cars were involved in the crash, and two people were taken to the hospital with possibly life-threatening injuries, Louisville Metro Police said Friday. At a press conference Sat-

urday, Greenberg said one person remains hospitalized with serious injuries. Greenberg said the crash occurred when a southbound vehicle hit a stalled car and crossed into northbound traffic, where it struck the tractor-trailer and caused it to go through the guardrail and hang precariously off the edge of the bridge. The accident was reported shortly after noon on Friday. After that, it took about 40 minutes to set up a rope system and get a firefighter, Bryce Carden, ready to rappel down to the cab, hook the driver up to a safety harness and lift her safely back to the bridge surface, Louisville Fire Chief Brian O'Neill said at a press conference Friday. She was taken to the hospital as a precaution.

Greenberg said Saturday that he spoke to the rescued driver, who has not been identified. "She is incredibly brave. She is incredibly fortunate," he said. Greenberg thanked Carden and the first responders, as well as the transportation crews, for their response. Kentucky's state highway engineer, James Ballinger, said Saturday that while the bridge will need repairs from the crash, particularly to a pedestrian sidewalk, its structural integrity was not compromised. Officials expected to open the bridge Saturday evening. The bridge carries about 24,000 vehicles a day over the Ohio River. The truck was removed from the bridge around 8 p.m. Friday. □



This photo provided by Louisville Division of Fire, Louisville Fire Dept. Louisville firefighter Bryce Carden rescues the driver of semitruck that is dangling off the Clark Memorial Bridge over the Ohio River on Friday, March 1, 2024 in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

Organizations work to assist dozens of families displaced by Texas wildfires

VALERIE GONZALEZ

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A gush of red-colored water spilled from an air tanker on Sunday as it flew over the eastern side of the Smokehouse Creek fire, one of several wildfires that have burned over 1.2 million acres (48,5623 hectares) in the northern Texas Panhandle.

As firefighters battle against strong winds in their efforts to contain the unprecedented wildfires in the Texas Panhandle, humanitarian organizations are pivoting their attention to victims who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the blazes.

Residents began clearing affected property on Saturday, and by Sunday the extent of the loss began mounting.

Julie Winters, the executive director for Hutchinson County United Way, said the organization has heard estimates of over 150 homes being impacted in the county, noting that the fires extend to at least five other counties.

"We already know that a large group of people are



Firefighters battle the Smokehouse Creek Fire north of Canadian, Texas, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

uninsured who lost their homes. So without monetary assistance, it's going to be very hard for them to start back over," Winters said.

About 70 families from Fritch, Texas, approached the organization on Friday during an event, but Winters

believes many others will come forward in the days and weeks ahead.

"Our goal is just for the long term of trying to get people back into shelters," Winters said. A steady outpouring of donated clothing, water, and hot meals quickly overwhelmed one city

in the affected area. By Sunday, the city of Borger urged people to redirect their donation efforts from food and water to clean-up supplies.

"We DO NOT NEED ANY MORE WATER OR DRINKS," the city said in a social media post. "We remain in

need of clean-up material such as shovels, rakes, gloves, and heavy-duty trash bags. We continue not accepting clothing. Other clothing drop-off places have been inundated and have stopped accepting."

Monetary donations from people ranging from \$25 to \$500 have been critical for the Hutchinson County United Way Wildfire Relief Fund, which is dispersing proceeds to displaced families.

"I think sometimes what people don't understand in a small rural community is that there is no temporary housing," Winters said. "We don't have real property like that and we don't even have hotels that can take care of those things."

Winters said the fires remind her of the similar devastating effects from the 2014 fire in Fritch when numerous families also lost their homes and were unable to return. "How do you get people back into homes so that they can stay in our community and not have to move somewhere else?" Winters said. □

A Supreme Court decision could come Monday in a case about barring Trump from the 2024 ballot



The U.S. Supreme Court is photographed Feb. 8, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Supreme Court decision could come as soon as Monday in the case about whether former President Donald Trump can be kicked off the ballot over

his efforts to undo his defeat in the 2020 election.

Trump is challenging a groundbreaking decision by the Colorado Supreme Court that said he is disqualified from being president again and ineligible for the state's primary,

which is Tuesday.

The resolution of the case on Monday, a day before Super Tuesday contests in 16 states, would remove uncertainty about whether votes for Trump, the leading Republican candidate for president, will ultimately count. Both sides had requested fast work by the court, which heard arguments less than a month ago, on Feb. 8.

The Colorado court was the first to invoke a post-Civil War constitutional provision aimed at preventing those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office. Trump also has since been barred from primary ballot in Illinois and Maine, though both decisions, along with Colorado's, are on hold pending the outcome of

the Supreme Court case.

The Supreme Court has until now never ruled on the provision, Section 3 of the 14th amendment.

The court indicated Sunday there will be at least one case decided Monday, adhering to its custom of not saying which one. But it also departed from its usual practice in some respects, heightening the expectation that it's the Trump ballot case that will be handed down.

Except for when the end of the term nears in late June, the court almost always issues decisions on days when the justices are scheduled to take the bench. But the next scheduled court day isn't until March 15. And apart from during the coronavirus

pandemic when the court was closed, the justices almost always read summaries of their opinions in the courtroom. They won't be there Monday.

Any opinions will post on the court's website beginning just after 10 a.m. EST Monday.

Separately, the justices last week agreed to hear arguments in late April over whether Trump can be criminally prosecuted on election interference charges, including his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The court's decision to step into the politically charged case, also with little in the way of precedent to guide it, calls into question whether Trump will stand trial before the November election. □

Hundreds of inmates flee after armed gangs storm Haiti's main prison, leaving bodies behind

By EVENS SANON and
PIERRE-RICHARD LUXAMA
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Hundreds of inmates fled Haiti's main prison after armed gangs stormed the facility in an overnight explosion of violence that engulfed much of the capital. At least five people were dead Sunday.

The jailbreak marked a new low in Haiti's downward spiral of violence and came as gangs step up coordinated attacks in Port-au-Prince, while embattled Prime Minister Ariel Henry is abroad trying to salvage support for a United Nations-backed security force to stabilize the country.

Three bodies with gunshot wounds lay at the prison entrance, which was wide open, with no guards in sight. Plastic sandals, clothing and electric fans were strewn across normally overcrowded concrete patios that were eerily empty on Sunday. In another neighborhood, the bloodied corpses of two men with their hands tied



Colombian inmates accused of participating in the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse walk inside the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Associated Press

behind the backs laid face down as residents walked past roadblocks set up with burning fires.

Haiti's government urged calm as it sought to find the killers, kidnappers and perpetrators of other violent crimes that it said escaped

during the outbreak of violence.

"The National Police is taking all measures to find the escaped prisoners and arrest those responsible for these criminal acts as well as all their accomplices, so that public order can be

restored," the Communications Ministry said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

Arnel Remy, a human rights attorney whose nonprofit works inside the prison, said on X that fewer than 100 of the nearly 4,000 inmates remained behind bars. Those

choosing to stay included 18 former Colombian soldiers accused of working as mercenaries in the July 2021 assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse. On Saturday night, several of the Colombians shared a video pleading for their lives. "Please, please help us," one of the men, Francisco Uribe, said in the message widely shared on social media. "They are massacring people indiscriminately inside the cells." On Sunday, Uribe told journalists who walked breezily into the normally highly guarded facility "I didn't flee because I'm innocent." In the absence of official information, inmates' family members rushed to the prison to check on loved ones. "I don't know whether my son is alive or not," said Alexandre Jean as she roamed around the cells looking for any sign of him. "I don't know what to do."

The violence Saturday night appeared to be widespread, with several neighborhoods reporting gunfire. □

Germany investigates after a recording of its officers discussing aid to Ukraine is leaked in Russia

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

German authorities on Saturday said they were investigating after an audio recording, in which German military officers purportedly discussed support for Ukraine, including the potential use of Taurus missiles, was published in Russia.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who was in Rome on Saturday, called it a "very serious matter" and said that German authorities were working to clarify the matter "very carefully, very intensively and very quickly." His comments were carried by Germany's dpa news agency.

In the 38-minute recording, military officers discuss the question of how the Taurus long-range cruise missiles could be used by Ukraine. A debate has been taking place in Germany over

whether to supply the missiles as Ukraine faced setbacks on the battlefield after two years of war, and with military aid from the United States being held up in Congress.

Earlier this week Scholz said he remains reluctant to send the Taurus missiles to Ukraine, pointing to a risk of Germany becoming directly involved in the war. His hesitancy is a source of friction in his three-party coalition and also annoyed Germany's conservative opposition.

But in the purported audio recording, German officers discuss the theoretical possibility of the missiles being used in Ukraine.

Germany's Ministry of Defense said it was investigating whether communications within the air force were intercepted by Rus-

sia. In a statement carried by dpa, it said: "According to our assessment, a conversation within the Air Force was intercepted. We cannot currently say with certainty whether changes have been made to the recorded or written version that is circulating on social media."

Margarita Simonyan, chief editor of Russian state-funded TV channel RT, posted the audio on social media.

"In this (...) recording, high-ranking Bundeswehr officers discuss how they will bomb (attention!) the Crimean bridge," she wrote on the Telegram messaging app, adding that the conversation took place on Feb. 19. Within the conversation, she said, one of the officers mentioned a planned trip to Ukraine on Feb. 21 to coordinate



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz delivers his speech at the PES congress after main candidate to the next European elections Nicolas Schmit has been elected, in Rome, Saturday, March 2, 2024.

Associated Press

strikes on Russian targets. Germany is now the second-biggest supplier of military aid to Ukraine after the United States and is further stepping up its support this year. But Scholz has stalled

for months on Ukraine's desire for Taurus missiles, which have a range of up to 500 kilometers (310 miles) and could in theory be used against targets far into Russian territory. □

Shehbaz Sharif becomes Pakistan's new premier as Imran Khan's allies in parliament allege rigging

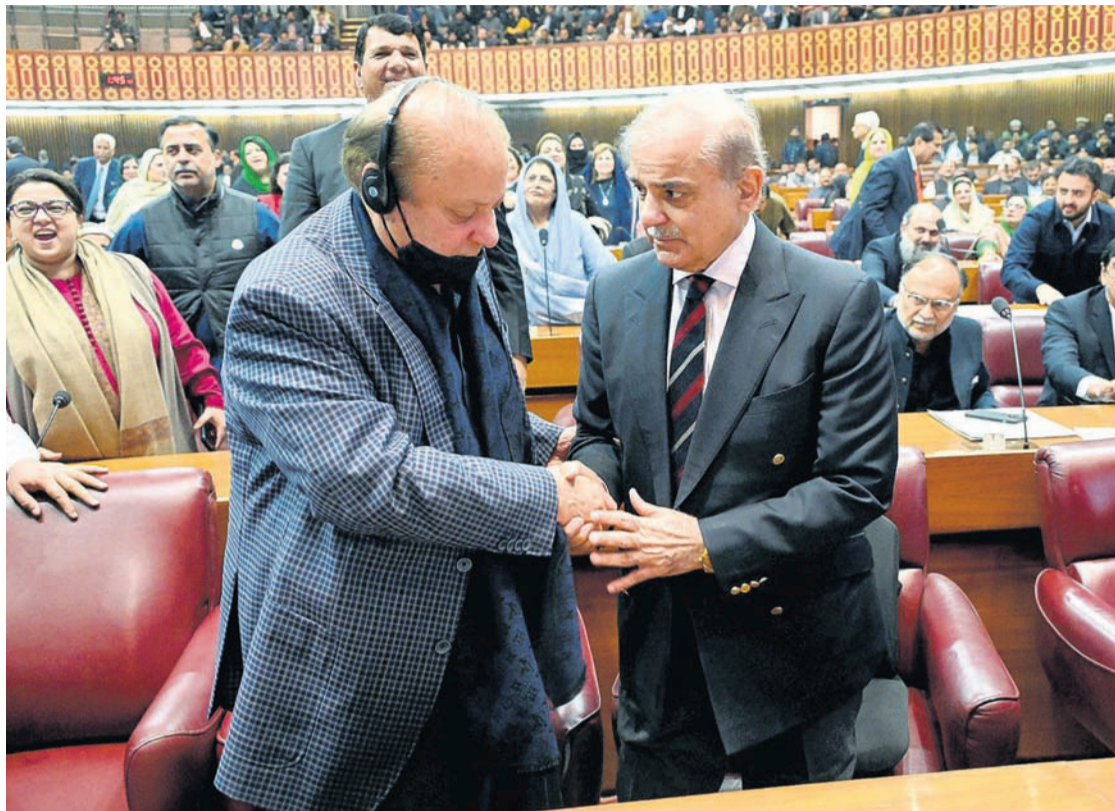
By **MUNIR AHMED**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Lawmakers in Pakistan's National Assembly on Sunday elected Shehbaz Sharif as the country's new prime minister for the second time as allies of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan in parliament shouted in protest, alleging rigging in last month's election.

Khan is currently serving prison terms in multiple cases and has been barred from seeking or holding office. Sharif replaced him as prime minister after his ouster in a no-confidence vote in parliament in April 2022. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said Sharif secured 201 votes, defeating Omar Ayub of the Sunni Ittehad Council who got 92 votes. The winner only needs 169 votes to get a majority.

Ayub was backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, whose candidates could not get enough seats to form a government on their own. The PTI refused to hold talks with its rivals to form a coalition.

Following days of negotiations, Sharif's Pakistan



In this photo released by the National Assembly office, Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, foreground right, is congratulated by his elder brother and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif following his appointment, at a parliament session, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Associated Press

Muslim League party and his supporters formed an alliance after the Feb. 8 election, which was overshadowed by militant violence, a nationwide mobile phone shutdown, Khan's exclusion from the vote, and an unusual delay in

announcing the result. Authorities said cutting communications was necessary to avoid attacks on candidates and security forces.

However, the delay drew criticism from Khan's party, which insists the vote was

rigged to stop it from getting a majority. The party claims it has evidence that its victory "was stolen during the vote count," a charge the Election Commission denies.

Sharif, in his acceptance speech in parliament Sun-

day, said: "We were subjected to political victimization in the past but never took any revenge." Without naming Khan, he said the previous ruler jailed many political rivals, including himself and his ally Asif Ali Zardari.

He also accused Khan's supporters of attacking military installations while protesting his ouster in 2022, adding that now parliament and the courts would decide whether those involved in attacking the military installations deserved a pardon.

Holding portraits of Khan, some lawmakers stood in front of Sharif when he began his speech, shouting "vote thief" and "shame." Sharif denounced their actions, saying they were causing chaos in parliament. He also said they should present their evidence of vote rigging to the relevant authorities.

Sharif then addressed the opposition saying, "I am offering you reconciliation. Let us sit together to work for the betterment of Pakistan." But he was greeted with more protests and shouts. □

Violence and rights abuses threaten South Sudan's stability, a U.N. report warns



Women holding national flags and peace banners await the arrival of Pope Francis at the St. Theresa Cathedral in Juba, South Sudan on Feb. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

By **DENG MACHOL**
Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan (AP) — Mass violence and gross

human rights violations in South Sudan continue unabated ahead of landmark elections due to take place

in December, a report by the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan has warned.

Patterns of violence, violations and entrenched impunity continue to blight the lives of an extremely vulnerable population, the report said, warning that the already dire humanitarian situation in the country will deteriorate further.

The elections, the first since independence from Sudan in 2011, should signify a milestone in efforts to secure a lasting peace since the end of the civil war which raged in South Sudan from 2013, killing some 400,000 people. A peace deal was agreed in 2018 but implementation has been sluggish and violence

persists in parts of the country.

The report presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva Friday said the elections face severe political and logistical challenges, and the post-election legal framework remains uncertain.

Crucial steps in the 2018 peace agreement, including the the adoption of a permanent constitution, the unification of armed forces, and the establishment of transitional justice institutions, "remain outstanding or incomplete," the report said.

"Time is running out for South Sudan's leaders to implement key commitments, which are the building blocks for peace, for

holding the country together, and advancing human rights beyond the elections," said Commissioner Barney Afako.

The elections were supposed to take place in early 2023 but were postponed for 18 months, following earlier delays.

Nation and state-building efforts have faltered, while predation and repression have been entrenched, according to the report, adding that even as insurgency persists, violence is being instigated by political and military elites.

Women and girls have been particularly targeted, the report said, while abductions have become a "troubling exploitative enterprise." □



Aruba has its winners for the "Un Canto pa Aruba" festival for its Anthem and Flag

During this past weekend, the festival of "Un Canto pa Aruba" for the island's Anthem and Flag Day took place. Two nights filled with music and cultural ambiance at Plaza Libertador Betico Croes where, at the end of each night, Aruba announced the winners in both the adult and youth categories.

On Friday, the adult participants took the stage to present their songs. Out of a total of 18 participants, singer Edward van der Biesen, along with the Alma Florico group with their song 'Con Mi por Lubida' composed by Danilo Vrolijk and arranged by Jaderick Croes, emerged as the winner.

Second place went to Karena Maduro of the Alma Folklorico group with her song 'Un Bon Arubiano' composed by Jhon Freddy Tobon Monotya and arranged by Migi Boss and Egmar Maduro.

Third place in the adult category went to the duo Sharmine and Shardell Maduro along with the musical group Rejoice with their song 'Aruba, Mi Isla, Mi Cas' composed by Zulaika Geerman and arranged by the Rejoice group.

On Saturday, children and adolescents presented their songs during the festival for the youth categories. The audience enjoyed the performances of 27 participants divided into four categories: 4-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years, and 13-17 years.

In the 4-6 years category, the overall winner was Mirlaine Vis with her song 'Den mi truck' composed by Veloushka Krozendijk and arranged by Elton Trimon. Second place went to Zilah Geerman with her song 'Canta cu Alegria' composed by John Freddy Tobon Monotya and arranged by Dimitri Frans and Johnny Scharbaay. Third place went to Livaya Escalona with her song 'Ay ban zwaai' composed by Erick Escalona and arranged by Amado Rosina.

In the 7-9 years category, the overall winner was Hailey Koolman with her song 'Arikok' composed and arranged by Gino Panneflek. Second place went to J-Vyön Besselink with his song 'Aruba ban planta' composed by Lurena Schwengle and arranged by Rygell Isabella. Third place went to Jaymerson Kelly with his song 'Muchanan ban goza' composed by Jason Kelly and arranged by Tico Kelly.

In the 10-12 years category, the overall winner of the night was Kitai de Jongh with his song 'Sabi mane' don Shoco' composed and ar-

ranged by Zulaika Geerman. Second place went to Ishem Howell with his song 'Cadushi, Siñami' composed by Sidney Simoons and arranged by Elton Trimon.

In the 13-17 years category, Gismary Linarez emerged as the overall winner with her song 'Si mi bos ta di Dios' composed by Lurena Schwengle and arranged by Raul Piar. Second place went to Reanne Ras with her song 'Sigui e pasanan' composed by Jhon Freddy Tobon Montoya and arranged by Raul Piar. Third place went to Lizienne Web with her song 'Pa Bo' composed by Lurena Schwengle and arranged by Johnny Scharbaay.

This month is particularly special to us locals, as Aruba celebrates its National Anthem and Flag Day on March 18th. On this day you can find various events all over the island, where locals come together to eat, play, sing and dance, celebrating what we are most proud of: Our Aruban identity!

Stay tuned for our upcoming issues this month to learn more about the history behind our National Anthem and Flag Day, and where to enjoy local food, craft and our culture on March 18th.



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Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday

starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

RCCA also offers the possibility for you and your family to enjoy dinner before the show! Starting from 6pm, you and your family can delight from the wide-ranged menu that includes a variation of delicious main course meals complete with a delectable flan dessert as a sweet treat. Enjoy your dinner even more at a VIP table complete with comfort seating!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo

and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end,

they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and

many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba.



Aruba to me



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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

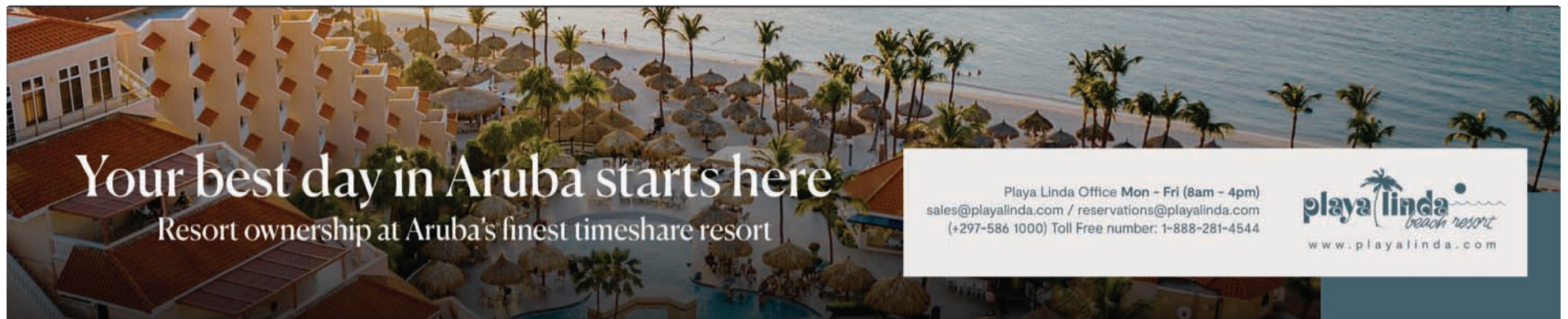
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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we

strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor, Bea Ann Argh from Ohio, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is A romantic water sunset."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!



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The CMO calls on the Aruban population to report any oil stains along the beach shorelines

On February 7th, National Geographic brought forward that Trinidad & Tobago was experiencing moments of concern in the waters off their southern coast due to a ship of unknown origin that had reportedly left behind a large oil spill in the sea.

The Trinidad & Tobago Coast Guard detected this spill for the first time on that day, located 6 kilometers off the Studley Park coast, according to Farley Augustine, the chief secretary of the Tobago National Assembly, as indicated in a press conference.

From that moment on, barriers were installed to try to stop the spill, which by February 14th had already spread to a 12-kilometer line. One thousand volunteers are trying to protect the areas to isolate the toxic material and evaluate its impact on marine and wildlife, where Prime Minister Keith Rowley pointed out that this is "a national emergency."

After authorities managed to identify the ship "Gulfstream," where diving bells were able to see the name on one side of the ship allegedly causing the spill, without giving further details.

As part of the investigation opened for this spill, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) contacted authorities from Panama and Aruba to try to confirm the origin of this vessel, as well as other boats coming from Panama called "Solo Creed" heading towards Guyana, allegedly towing the "Gulfstream" ship, as indicated by the France24 website.

It was also ensured that "satellite images showed Solo Creed towing an object on February 4th, 2024. The National Coastal Surveillance Radar Center (NCSRC) could use this information to monitor the ship in the waters of Trinidad & Tobago," according to the text from the Ministry of National Security of Trinidad & Tobago, which also stated that the NCSRC lost radar contact with these two vessels.

On Aruba, on February 26th, the Crisis Management Office (CMO) announced that Aruba had transitioned from yellow to orange code regarding the oil spill incident in Trinidad & Tobago. In this regard, the director of CMO, Rino Hermans, declared to the international press that the Aruban Government had plans to activate a team of 60 people, including first



aid personnel and cleaning staff, to address the oil spill situation if it were to reach the Aruban coast, which indeed occurred last Saturday, March 2nd, where tar balls were detected in a known location by CMO. It's not a very serious situation like in other countries, but it's necessary to stay alert as Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes stated.

However, it's possible that they come from the incident in Trinidad and Tobago, it's also possible that they came via the route of barges between Jamaica and Trinidad through oil tankers, they said. One of the pictures is of the ship in Trinidad & Tobago.

Tar balls are formed when highly viscous crude interacts with water; the spill from Tobago cannot be the origin of these tar balls. They're more likely from illegal oil discharge near the coast of Aruba. Possibly from ships sailing to Venezuela to carry or seek crude. Another possibility is an oil spill from Lake Maracaibo, where oil spills are very common due to all facilities and pipelines being in poor condition and

constant leakage, as reported by Venezuelan media, which also raises the alarm that spills persist and complicate the situation in this area.

Through a press release, CMO informed the community that from the moment they received reports about the oil reaching the coast of Bonaire, Aruba intensified its alert level to Orange Code, and an Incident Management Team was immediately established following the oil spill control plan (OILIE).

Aruba intensified its efforts to scout the coast by dividing it into five sectors, where intensive exploration is taking place by different agencies such as DNM, FPNA, DOW, hotels under the leadership of ATA under Cluster 8, and the Harbor Master.

They also pointed out that tar balls can be expected in the coming weeks, but recent scouting and information, as well as the Rapid EMS Mapping to outline the waiting impact area, suggest that most of the stains have passed Aruba. However, there may still be tar

balls coming ashore in the next few days; CMO calls on the population to report any oil stains they may see, even if they are located in remote areas. To report this, you can send an email to: cmo@crisis.aw

Immediate cleaning actions will take place if the patch of tar balls is located in areas where the public lands, and also if it is located where turtles lay eggs or use them for nesting. However, all tar patches on cliffs will remain if they pose no risk to humans or animals, as informed by CMO.

The Regional Emergency, Information, and Training Center for Marine Pollution in the Caribbean (Rac-Rempeitc Caribbean) is one of the four Regional Activity Centers of the Caribbean Environmental Program CAR/PAP established in 1995. It counts on experts in the field affiliated voluntarily to the signatory states of the Cartagena Convention Oil Spill Protocol of the United Nations via the United Nations Environmental Program regional office in Kingston, Jamaica. Aruba is also a signatory to this treaty and its protocols.





Article by Etnia Nativa
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Shamans & their state of consciousness

Episode CVII - 107

NOORD — Ancient shamans have always modified the ordinary state of consciousness of their community. Clan leaders, special people whether male or female, there was no distinction, had the urge and responsibility to defend, protect, fix, save, repair, cure and obtain providence by the means of substances, meditation and observation in order to lead and teach.

Conscious altering rituals were practiced in all human societies and can be traced back to the Neolithic era rituals that also served as a bonding ceremony. Authentic visionaries are to be considered very essential in the legacy of man's physical evolution and as a spiritual being that is consciously transforming and evolving in to a creative being of righteousness and an open state of mind. By changing the ordinary state of consciousness we come into contact with a deeper part of existence. Through these experiences the shamans gain greater knowledge of practical things like where to go for hunting, foreseeing bad weather or for casting famine or advice to store food in anticipation of a meager harvest. With these practice the shamans could come into closer contact with the group or the soul of the animal to be hunted revealing it whereabouts and location. The shaman leads himself through ecstasy by experiencing a different state of consciousness when entering into communion with the entire planet.

Human beings to be considered to lead a complex



way of live. Here is precisely the greatest difficulty between modern human societies and shamanic practices when being confronted by this type of experience, since they are living constantly immersed in the material world. When the shaman reaches the desire state of consciousness to develop his spiritual journey, he must go through a tunnel that leads him to a parallel world in which he gains perspective into a specific need or reason. In this parallel world he is guided by his own higher inner part, which helps him discovers what is useful for the specific moment. In this way the practice of shamanic journeys where ancient means by which man explored the depths of existence. This age-old practice is the precursor to hypnosis and meditation.

Nature has made available a great variety of substances that allow us to enter particular states of consciousness. Aboriginal tribes of the Caribbean, Central and South America, including the Caquetian groups of our islands, used to grind the seeds of the plant called Anadenantera Peregrina



which they mixed together with other herbs and snails shells, which they cook over fire, adding the mixture into a container for its elaboration. In this way they obtain a fine powder, essentially hallucinogenic, that was inhaled or blown in the nostrils, either as a remedy, a cure or for spiritual trance called the hécura for the Yanomamis of the Amazon region. This sends him in to a trance like state which facilitates the interpretation of dreams or cryptic messages from the beyond. Tabaco smoke was a key element during these rituals, offerings blessings to open portals of earthly power.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp at +297 592-2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



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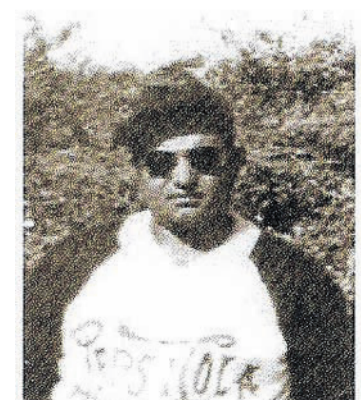
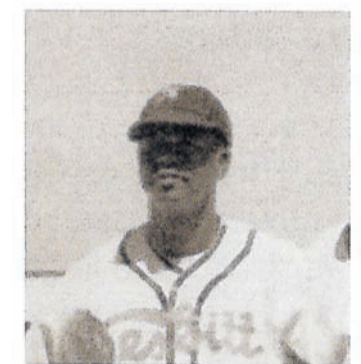
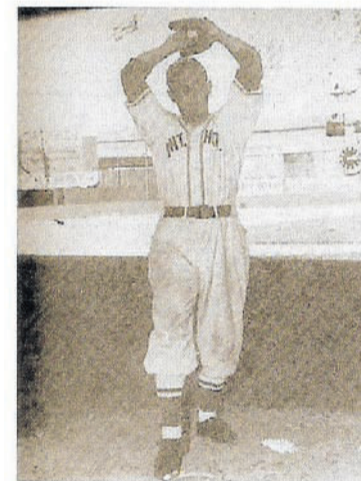
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Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Re-

public also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola



(Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950. In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and

became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox.

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

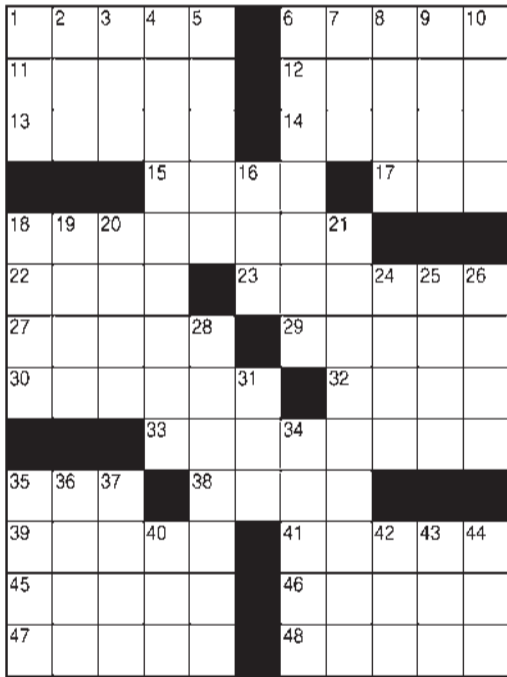
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
 1 Vodka cocktail
 6 Day in Hollywood
 11 Stream
 12 Rodeo rope
 13 Blitzen's boss
 14 Mischievous
 15 Commentary piece
 17 Chiding sound
 18 Clan-destine networks
 22 Kaffiyeh wearer
 23 Fine point
 27 Cockpit worker
 29 Stylishly quaint
 30 Lipstick mishaps
 32 Resting on
 33 Some Washington urbanites
 35 Drake's music
 38 Victories
 39 Customary
 41 Skydiving need
 45 Following
 46 Is fond of
 47 Spud
 48 Fencing swords
- DOWN**
 1 "60 Minutes" network
 2 Singer Rita
 3 Abel, to Adam
 4 Water vessel
 5 Giraffe's cousin
 6 Water vessel
 7 Squeak stopper
 8 Water vessel
 9 "How sweet —!"
 10 Went under
 16 Finish
 18 Easy targets
 19 Prudish
 20 New Haven school
 21 Water vessel
 24 "— boy!"
 25 Magnetic metal
 26 Cuts off
 28 Water vessel
 31 Biol. or geol.
 34 Husband of une tante
 35 Reddish brown
 36 Largest continent
 37 Fourth-down play
 40 Highest card
 42 Luau instrument
 43 Golf peg
 44 Twisty turn



Saturday's answer



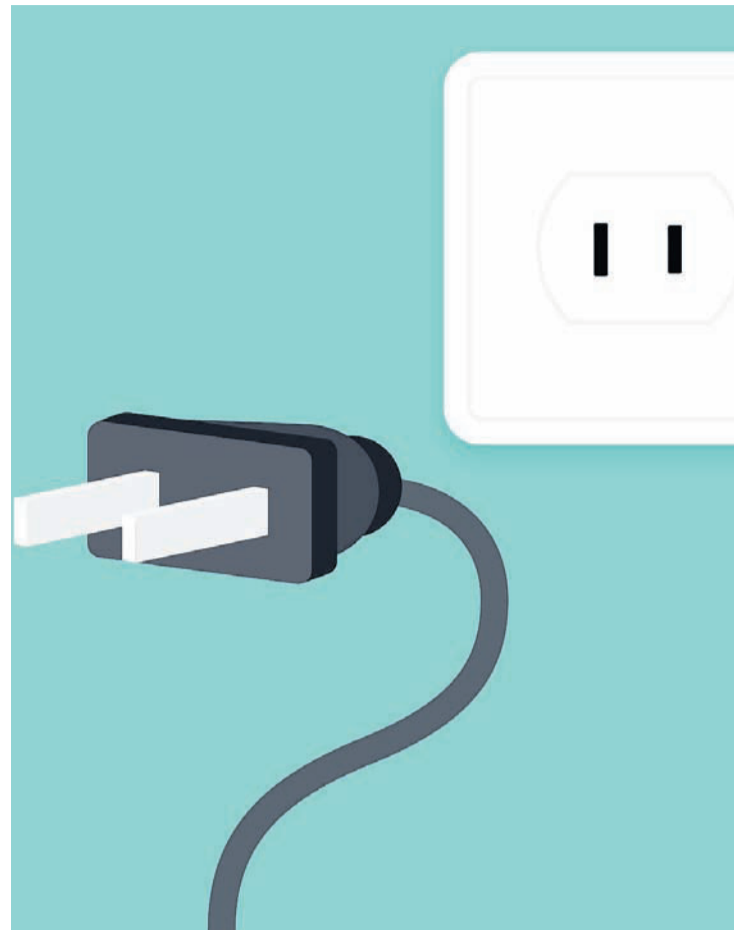
3-4

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**
 VDH VK Z AUXHC PLOZA, VDL
 RZHG OAOLFOX KVL Z BGUNO,
 HGOI ENVXOX BUHGUI Z
 PLOZA. — OLIOXH PVBXVI
 Saturday's Cryptoquote: ALL CATS LOVE FISH
 BUT FEAR TO WET THEIR PAWS. — WILLIAM
 SHAKESPEARE

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours
 Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety
 Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply

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Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Transportation and are based on destination rather than mileage. Legally, taxis are insured for 5 passengers only, which means that taxis are only allowed to transport 5 people at a time. This is due to safety reasons. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for 50\$ an hour.

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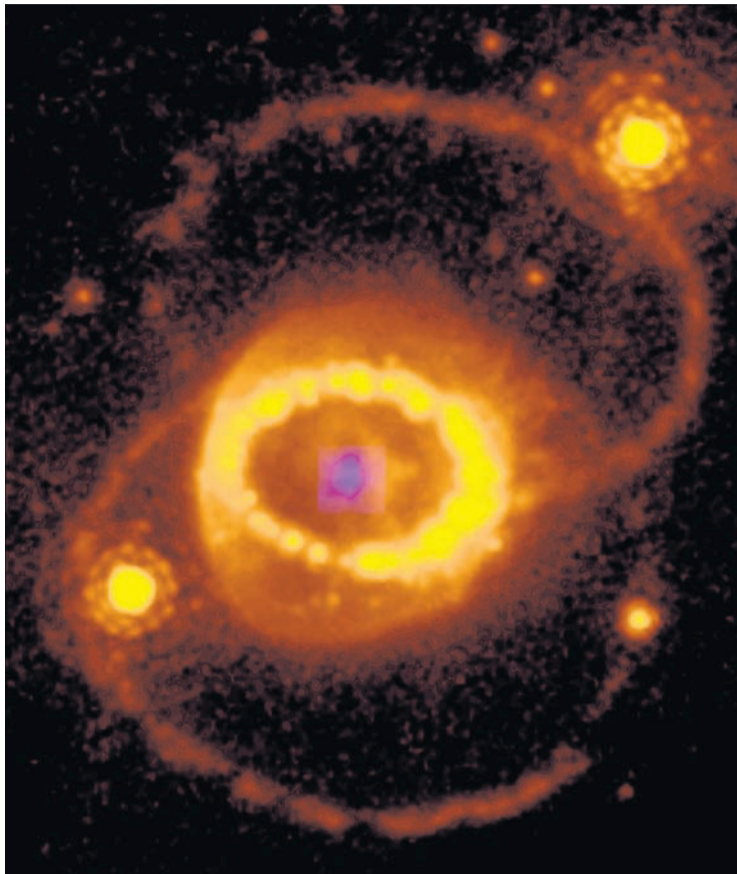
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Space telescope spies neutron star in the debris of famous supernova



This image provided by researcher J. Larsson in February 2024, made from a combination of Hubble Space Telescope images, shows the aftermath of supernova 1987A.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Scientists have confirmed what became of a star that exploded in a stunning supernova visible to Earth more than three decades ago: It morphed into a neutron star, one of the oddest objects in the universe. In 1987, a star in a nearby galaxy went supernova and its fiery demise was detected in Earth's nighttime sky with the naked eye for months. Scientists figured

when its core collapsed, the remnants would turn into one of two things: a black hole, where nothing escapes; or a neutron star, the most dense object in the universe besides a black hole. The trouble was there was so much debris, astronomers couldn't see past the dust. But NASA's Webb Space Telescope cut through the clutter by peering in infrared light and saw two telltale chemical sig-

natures — argon and sulfur — of a pulsing super-hot neutron star, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

Since the explosion was recent and well-tracked, this discovery should help astronomers better understand this type of cosmic oddball and its predecessors that helped seed the universe with important elements such as carbon and iron.

This neutron star is only 12 miles (20 kilometers) from end to end, yet weighs 1 1/2 times our sun. It's densely packed with little space between parts of its atoms. The aftermath of the so-called supernova 1987A is likely the only time modern astronomy has witnessed the birth and early years of a neutron star, even though there are closer but older ones in our own galaxy, scientists said.

"Besides the black hole, these are the most exotic

objects we have in the universe," said lead author Claes Fransson, an astrophysicist at Stockholm University in Sweden. "We know about these objects from the 1960s, but we haven't seen any of them being really formed." Images of the distant supernova remnant shows what Fransson calls "a ring of pearls" encircling a cloud of dust. □



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LeBron James scoring 40,000 points will be a moment for NBA to savor

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Father Time is likely to take another loss on Saturday. LeBron James is nine points away from becoming the first NBA player to reach 40,000. It's obviously reasonable to think that he'll get it when the Los Angeles Lakers host the Denver Nuggets on Saturday. James has scored at least nine points in each of his last 762 games that count, including playoffs.

He's been held under nine points a total of nine times in 21 seasons. In other words, 40,000 is about to happen. And since 50,000 points probably won't happen — though one never knows with the 39-year-old James — this will be another moment that is certainly worth savoring.

"No one has done it," James said. "And for me to be in this position at this point and time in my career, I think it's pretty cool. But is it one of the top things I've done in my career? No. Does it mean something? Of course. Why wouldn't it?"

He never set out in pursuit of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's scoring record; it just happened. He never set out in pursuit of Vince Carter's record of playing 22 seasons



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, scores as Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr., defends, becoming the first NBA player to reach 40,000 points in a career, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 2, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

either; he'll tie that mark next year, barring some sort of seismic change in his plans or thinking. It's still about one thing, and that's the ring.

The Lakers aren't the favorites to win the title this season. But given how the oldest player in the NBA right now has performed this week, Laker Nation still has plenty of reasons to think that one more run to a Larry O'Brien Trophy is possible. What he did on Wednes-

day night against the Los Angeles Clippers was pure theater. He outscored the Clippers 19-16 by himself in the fourth quarter, making five 3-pointers and leading the Lakers to a wild 116-112 comeback win. And then on Thursday night — a back-to-back for a 39-year-old with a bad ankle — he played 39 minutes, scored 31 points and had a huge chasedown block that became a game-saving play to help the Lakers get an

overtime win against Washington. "That's why he takes good care of himself," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "The fruits of his labor are on full display with plays like that."

The Wizards are bad, sure. But a win is a win, and the Lakers keep stacking them. They're 9-3 in their last 12 games, are five games over .500 and now get a shot at Denver in a rematch of last season's Western Conference finals mismatch. That's James' focus entering Saturday. Not getting 40,000 points.

"We just want to get better," James said.

It's cliché, but true. That said, he's just doing a whole ton of unprecedented stuff. He's going to average about 25 points this season. There hasn't been an "oldest player" in the NBA to average even 10 points since John Stockton scored 10.8 per game in 2002-03. James is probably going to finish with the highest scoring average of any oldest player ever; Abdul-Jabbar was the league's oldest player when he averaged 23.4 points in 1985-86.

Here's another oldie-but-goodie: James was an All-Star last month. Nobody had been an All-Star in a season where they were

the league's oldest player since 1991, when Robert Parish pulled it off.

"It's just been an absolute honor to be able to grace the floor throughout my career and be out there with the greatest players in the world year in and year out," James said in Indianapolis, when he was an All-Star for the 20th time in his 21 seasons. The NBA couldn't have timed this any better: Lakers vs. Nuggets, national TV, prime-time Saturday night, James nearing a milestone that nobody has ever hit and nobody will again anytime soon — if ever. The funny thing is, he's already reached 40,000 points, depending on how one counts.

Let's explain.

Officially, James has 39,991 points in regular-season games going into Saturday. Unofficially, it could be argued that the real total is 40,015 points (which would have meant that he crossed the 40,000 mark on Thursday). Or maybe even 40,067 points (which would have meant the milestone basket happened Sunday in Phoenix).

He had 24 points on Dec. 9 in the final of the In-Season Tournament, when the Lakers beat Indiana 123-109 for that event's inaugural crown. But that game wasn't a regular-season game, doesn't count in the standings and doesn't count in the stats either.

And he's also scored 52 points in Play-In Tournament games, getting 22 in a win over Golden State in 2021 and 30 against Minnesota in a win last season. Those aren't playoff games, nor are they regular-season games. They just don't count, period.

So, he's already done it. He'll just do it for real on Saturday. Before long, it'll be back to the playoff grind, already in progress, but the moment is one he will appreciate.

"To hit feats and have milestones throughout my career, they all mean something to me. Absolutely," James said. □

Devyne Charlton breaks her own world record in 60-meter hurdles at indoor worlds



Devyne Charlton, of Bahamas, poses after winning the gold medal setting a new world record in the women's 60 meters hurdles final during the World Athletics Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, Scotland, Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland

(AP) — Bahamas runner Devyne Charlton broke her own 60-meter hurdles world record at the world athletics indoor championships on Sunday.

Charlton won in 7.65 seconds in Glasgow and took 0.02 off the record she set in New York on Feb. 11, which was matched by American runner Tia Jones five days later in New Mexico.

France's Cyrena Samba-Mayela was second in 7.74, and Poland's Pia Skrzyszowska took bronze in 7.79. □

Caitlin Clark makes 2 free throws to break Pete Maravich's NCAA Division I scoring record

By ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

Iowa star Caitlin Clark became the all-time NCAA Division I scoring leader on Sunday, breaking the late Pete Maravich's 54-year-old record when she made two free throws after a technical foul was called in the No. 6 Hawkeyes' game against No. 2 Ohio State. Clark entered the game in Iowa City needing 18 points to pass Maravich's total of 3,667, amassed in just 83 games over three seasons at LSU (1967-70).

Maravich's record fell four days after Clark broke Lynette Woodard's major college women's record with 33 points against Minnesota on Wednesday.

Clark's record-setting points Sunday came in improbable fashion. Best known for her long 3-point shots, she instead went past Maravich after Ohio State was called for a technical foul with less than a second to go in the first half.

Clark swished both free throws to run her career total to 3,668 points; she had no immediate reaction after the second shot went through, as if it hadn't sunk in yet.

Asked in a television interview at halftime if she was aware of the record when she stepped to the line, Clark said: "Not really. When they announced it and everybody screamed, that's when I knew."

Clark got off to a slow start. Her first shot was a 3-pointer that bounced off the rim. She missed a layup and from deep on the right wing before making a 3 from the left side for her first basket. After starting 2 for 7, she made 3 of her next 4 shots — including three straight 3-pointers, each deeper than the previous.

Woodard was among the attendees at Carver-Hawkeye Arena to help Clark celebrate senior day. Also on hand were basketball great Maya Moore, who was Clark's favorite player, and Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan.

On Thursday, Clark an-

nounced she would enter the 2024 WNBA draft and skip the fifth year of eligibility available to athletes who competed during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is projected to be the No. 1 overall pick by the Indiana Fever, and the WNBA already is seeing a rise in ticket sales.

Logitix, which researches prices on ticket resale platforms, reported an average sale price of \$598 for a ticket to this game purchased since Feb. 1.

"Listen, this is the greatest ticket on the planet right now," Woodard said in an interview with ESPN before the game. "Hey, I'm going to enjoy this right now."

Clark is all but assured of



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark (22) sinks a technical foul to become the all-time leading scorer in NCAA Division I basketball during the first half of a college game against Ohio State, Sunday, March 3, 2024, in Iowa City, Iowa.

Associated Press

one or two more appearances at the arena in Iowa City after Sunday. Iowa is projected to be a No. 2 seed for the NCAA Tour-

namment, meaning it would be at home for the first two rounds.

Pearl Moore of Francis Marion owns the overall

women's record with 4,061 points from 1975-79 at the small-college level in the AIAW. Moore had 177 points at Anderson Junior College before enrolling at Francis Marion.

Clark was 393 behind Moore as of halftime Sunday, and she has only three to 10 more games left in an Iowa uniform depending on how far the Hawkeyes advance in the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments.

The fall of Maravich's record will be subject to scrutiny. Maravich's all-time scoring mark is one of the more remarkable in sports history. There was no shot clock or 3-point line in his era. The 3-point line was adopted in 1986. □



Palm Beach, Aruba

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Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese

crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed

and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☑



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

